

February 5, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As a strong supporter of economic development in Southern Illinois, I write today to urge your personal attention to the problems facing Kokopelli Golf Course in Marion, Illinois. This multimillion dollar project would bring much needed jobs and investment to Southern Illinois, but the sale has been blocked by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC).

In 2008, Green Grass Group, L.L.C. (GGG) attempted to purchase and redevelop Kokopelli Golf Course from Kokopelli Master Partners, L.L.C. (KMP). In addition to maintaining a well-regarded golf course and economic engine for the region, the multimillion dollar development project would attract new industries and hundreds of jobs to the area. OFAC placed a block on the sale after learning that a member of KMP, John Bredenkamp, was on its list of Specially Designated Nationals. GGG had no knowledge of Mr. Bredenkamp's investment in the course or his illegal activities prior to OFAC blocking the sale. Because Mr. Bredenkamp's assets have been frozen, the sale of Kokopelli cannot be completed.

I have been working on this issue over the last year with the Treasury Department, KMP, and GGG to help the parties reach an agreement that will allow for the sale of Kokopelli and prevent Mr. Bredenkamp from receiving any profits. To date, no agreement has been reached. If the sale is not completed, Kokopelli Golf Course will be forced to close on February 13, 2010.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter of serious importance to Southern Illinois, and I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Jerry F. Costello
Member of Congress